

CLAIMS

1. A method of operating a set of devices comprising receiving a real-world description in the form of an instruction set of a markup language (300), the description including asset terms (200) and effect terms (202),
5 requesting assets and effects according to the terms in the description (304), modifying at least one asset according to at least one effect (306, 314), and operating the devices according to the assets (308).
- 10 2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the modifying of an asset is executed by a first device of the set of devices, the first device transmitting the modified asset to a second device in the set.
3. A method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein a device of the set
15 of devices receives an unmodified asset, the modifying of the asset being executed by that device.
4. A method according to claim 1, 2 or 3, and further comprising receiving, as a portion of the real-world description, location data, the location
20 data being associated with at least one term of the real-world description.
5. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein at least one of the terms of the real-world description is location neutral.
- 25 6. A method according to claim 4 or 5, and further comprising retrieving location information for at least some of the devices in the set of devices, matching the location information with the location data, and modifying only some of the assets according to the matching.
- 30 7. A method according to any preceding claim, and further comprising distributing the description amongst the devices of the set.

8. A method according to claims 1 to 6, and further comprising reading the description at a local server.

9. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein the
5 modifying of at least one asset comprises modifying an asset according to a plurality of effects.

10. A system comprising a set of devices (10, 12, 28, 14, 24, 26, 16, 18, 20), at least one device of the system being arranged to receive a real-
10 world description in the form of an instruction set of a markup language (300), the description including asset terms (200) and effect terms (202), to request assets and effects according to the terms in the description (304), and to modify at least one asset according to at least one effect (306, 314), the devices of the set being operated according to the assets (308).

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11. A system according to claim 10, wherein at least some of the devices of the set are interconnected by a wireless network.

12. A system according to claim 10 or 11, wherein at least some of
20 the devices of the set are interconnected by a powerline carrier network.

13. A system according to any one of claims 10 to 12, wherein a device of the set is a local server.

25 14. A system according to any one of claims 10 to 13, wherein one or more devices of the set of devices is provided with storage capability, which capability is accessible by at least one other device of the set.

15. A system according to any one of claims 10 to 14, wherein each
30 device of the set of devices has associated location information.